Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 OES-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /069 W

-----171402Z 078088 /50

R 171252Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1857

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT PASS COMM/NOAA

GENEVA FOR CARTWRIGHT

NAIROBI FOR UNEP PERMREP

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: WMO TGEN

SUBJ: WMO: SUPPORT FOR FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT/WHITE VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 28159, (B) STATE 25651

1. DR. ROBERT WHITE, US PERMREP WMO, HAS INFORMED SCIATT THAT WMO PRESIDENT DR. M.F. TAHA OF EGYPT WILL MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO GET FUNDS FROM KUWAIT AND GULF STATES TO ASSIST IN CLOSING GAP IN GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM (GARP) CONTRIBUTIONS.

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2. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. TAHA AND GOE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICIALS, AND IN VIEW OF TAHA'S APPROACH TO OTHER ARAB DONORS, DR WHITE RECOMMENDS THAT WE NOT PRESS GOE ON CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO GARP PROGRAM. THEREFORE, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE WILL NOT DELIVER SUGGESTED NOTE TO MFA (REF A, PARAS 7 -14).

3. GOE MET SERVICE, IN THEORY SUPPOSED TO GENERATE INCOME THROUGH USER FEES. HOWEVER, MOST MAJOR USERS, LIKE EGYPTAIR, HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED IN PAST TO RECEIVING FREE WEATHER SERVICES AND ARE NOT NOW WILLING TO PAY, RESULTING IN GOE HAVING TO CONTINUE TO ABSORB LARGE DEFICIT THROUGH BUDGETED FUNDS.

4. DR. TAHA ALSO GAVE DR. WHITE EXTENSIVE TOUR OF GOE METEOROLOGICAL FACILITIES AND POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF METEOROOLOGICAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY THAT LINKING CAIRO AS A REGIONAL CENTER TO MOSCOW, NAIROBI AND KANO IS IN NEED OF UPGRADING. MOST EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIED BY USSR IN EARLIER YEARS, WAS NOT VERY GOOD TO BEGIN WITH AND HAS DETERIORATED. SOVIETS HAVE NOT PROVIDED MUCH IN THE WAY OF MAINTENANCE AND PARTS RECENTLY.

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